

## **Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources...Home of the Massachusetts Gleaning Network**

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is home to the Massachusetts Gleaning\* Network. The network, established in the fall of 2011, includes farms, volunteers, service agencies, food banks and other organizations.

MDAR serves as a clearinghouse for the network where members can tap into a vetted and extensive database to facilitate participation in gleaning projects in their own communities. MDAR's mission is to educate constituents about gleaning and the impact they can make in their community by participating. MDAR also provides information on how to get involved with local groups to leverage combined resources for optimal results in local communities/counties.



**Who's Gleaning?** Hundreds of gleaning projects regularly take place in several counties across Massachusetts and are hosted by community groups, many of which have joined the Massachusetts Gleaning Network. The majority of gleaning efforts is coordinated early summer and run through December (the timing of these events depends on the harvest time of the individual farm).

**Why a Massachusetts Gleaning Network?** Farms in several counties have expressed that they would like to be listed and love the idea of gleaning...they just don't have the time or energy to coordinate it. There are gleaning groups and organizations wanting to host a community based volunteer project, yet do not have the resources, staff or time to identify farms. This is where MDAR can serve as liaison in support of communities who are coming together to help their neighbors access healthy, locally sourced food.

**Easy to Become Involved.** Interested groups are encouraged to become a part of this growing network. For more Information, please contact [Rose.Arruda@state.ma.us](mailto:Rose.Arruda@state.ma.us), or at 617-626-1849.

\* Gleaning is the act of collecting leftover crops from farmers' fields after they have been commercially harvested or on fields where it is not economically profitable to harvest.